

REQUEST FOR FY 2005 BUDGET AMENDMENT

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A REQUEST FOR A FY 2005 BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE LOW
INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE DEPART-
MENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



NOVEMBER 20, 2004.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and
ordered to be printed

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THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, November 19, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2005 budget amendment for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in the Department of Health and Human Services. I designate \$300 million in requested contingency funding for this program as an emergency requirement.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

Estimate No. 15, 108th Cong., 2d Sess.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2004.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

Submitted for your consideration is a request for an FY 2005 budget amendment for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in the Department of Health and Human Services. The additional funds requested would ensure that resources are adequate to meet the energy needs of low-income households facing a recent spike in home heating fuel costs.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services in recommending that you transmit this amendment to the Congress.

Sincerely,

JOSHUA B. BOLTEN,
Director.

Enclosure.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

FY 2005 Budget Appendix Page: 453

FY 2005 Pending Request: \$2,000,500,000

FY 2005 Proposed Amendment: \$200,000,000

Revised Request: \$2,200,500,000

(In the appropriations language under the above heading, amend as follows:)

- (1) delete "\$1,800,500,000" and substitute *\$1,900,500,000*;
- (2) delete "\$200,000,000" and substitute *\$300,000,000*;
- (3) delete ", and notwithstanding the designation requirement of section 2602(e)"; and
- (4) insert before the period, *:Provided further, That Congress designates this amount as an emergency requirement for this specific purpose*

Since last winter, home heating fuel prices have increased 49 percent. In response to this recent spike in costs, this budget amendment would increase the FY 2005 appropriations request for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to ensure that resources are adequate to meet the energy needs of low-income households.

The amendment provides \$100 million in additional block grant funds, revises the request to provide \$300 million in contingency funding, and designates this entire \$300 million as an emergency requirement.